

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Gustafson Prattville, AL Chair	PT
Vince Molyneux Mobile, AL Secretary	PTA
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Jay H. Segal Birmingham, AL Member	PT
John Cornier Tuscaloosa, AL Member	PT
Eric Dekle Mobile, AL Member	PT
Mitzi Tuttle Skipperville, AL Member	PTA

RULE CHANGES

Three rule changes have gone into effect recently. The **first** is an addition to the Administrative Code in which students, co-workers, volunteers, or any other individual are added to the group of whom a licensee cannot harass or intimidate. The **second** rule change updates the address of ICA, which is an organization that evaluates foreign applicant credentials. The **third** rule change is the requirement of ten hours of continuing education for physical therapist assistants. This rule was proposed by a PTA and ultimately adopted by the Board.

In addition **two other rule changes** have started the certification process. **One** is a conflict of interest change in which Board members are limited in their potential positions so as not to have a conflict of interest with the Board of Physical Therapy. The **next** is a defining of the use of unlicensed aides in the practice of physical therapy. Since these two changes are in the certification process until March 5, public opinion can be sent to the Board as stated in the blast emails that were sent to licensees.

Proposed and adopted rule changes and the dates they will be effective will be sent via e-mail to all licensees. They are also published in the Administrative Monthly and the Quarterly Board Newsletter. Therefore in the future, the Board will be able to notify all licensees of rule changes so there will be prompt adherence to changes made.

- Andy Gustafson, Board Chair

LEGAL COUNSEL

OLIVIA MARTIN
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

BOARD STAFF

N. K. HORNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NK.HORNER@PT.ALABAMA.GOV
SHEILA WRIGHT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III
SHEILA.WRIGHT@PT.ALABAMA.GOV
PHONE: (334)242-4064
(334)242-3603
(888)726-9743



**PLEASE NOTIFY THE BOARD
IF YOU HAVE A MAILING OR EMAIL
ADDRESS CHANGE.
THE STATE DOES NOT FORWARD MAIL**

BLAST E-MAILS

As you are aware, the Board of Physical Therapy now has the capability to send blast emails to licensees. Most of you have already realized this as it was first used to elicit opinions about the use of aides in our state. I apologize for not giving those who asked for clarification of my questions. I intentionally did not want to confuse or taint the question, as your opinions were used to guide the Board in coming up with a rule change regarding the use of aides. I appreciate everyone's response from varied settings as you all gave meaningful things to think about. The Board will now use the email capability to alert licensees regarding rule changes, opinions on potential topics for rule or statute changes, and for sending out the newsletter that the Board does. This capability should allow the licensees to be better informed of the board's actions. It will also let the licensees give their input into certain decision making processes. It is a welcomed change for the Board to move into the computer age as it continues its service to the people of this state and its licensees. Remember, we can't keep you informed if your email is not kept current. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Andy Gustafson, Board Chair



*** * * * * HOT TOPICS BUTTON ON THE WEBSITE * * * * ***

Push the **"HOT TOPICS"** button on the homepage
and see what "HOT" items are up for discussion
on the Board Meeting Agenda.

MODEL PRACTICE ACT TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

The MPA Task Force has been meeting on a regular basis since being charged with the task. The MPA Task Force has closely examined the current Alabama PT Practice Act in light of the MPA. Throughout the discussions, two assumptions guided the group's activities:

While debate was important, a cooperative spirit should be maintained throughout.

The primary purpose of the Practice Act is to protect the public. Therefore, public protection should be considered first in all discussions.

In June, 2009, the work to date was presented to members of the Alabama Chapter's Chapter Council and feedback was systematically gathered. The Task Force then considered input received and modified the work accordingly. A similar process was followed in a meeting with members of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy in September, 2009.

Since beginning the activity, the MPA Task force convened on 24 occasions for a total of approximately 70 hours of discussion concerning the issues.

Since originally charged with the task, several important modifications were made to the original task force purpose and goals. First, it became apparent that an attempt to modify the Administrative Code (i.e., Rules and Regulations) would be premature until a new Practice Act (i.e., Statute) was adopted. As a result, review and suggested modification of the Code was dropped from the purpose and goals. Second, it appeared that the task of identifying priorities for change would require consideration of input from a much larger group of individuals consisting of both stakeholders and opponents and would likely be part of a negotiation process. – Dave Morris, Alabama PT Association

The MPA Task Force recently submitted a final report to the Alabama Chapter Leadership. The report included proposed language updates for the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act as well as recommendations for implementing such changes. The report was endorsed by the Chapter leadership and will now be presented to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy at the February 23rd board meeting for continued discussion. Members of the MPA Task Force should be commended for their dedication to the process.

Jay Segal, Board Member
Board Member
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

2010 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

The State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy will be accepting 2010 board member nominations by mail during the month of April and from the floor at the Alabama Physical Therapy Association's Spring Conference following the Annual Meeting on May 1. You will be receiving a letter in the mail the first of April re: the nomination process. We plan to also e-mail the letter to those who have e-mail addresses on file.

Board members are appointed for five year terms which typically involve once a month meetings and occasional out-of-state travel to remain current on rules, regulations and laws pertaining to our profession. Appointed nominees will serve to protect the interest of the public and licensees in the State of Alabama.

Though at times taxing, the Board member role can prove to be one of the most rewarding, educational and meaningful experiences of a physical therapist's or physical therapist assistant's career.

We sincerely hope that as many professionals as possible will consider serving on the State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy to protect our health care consumers, our licensees and our profession.

Nettie Katharin Horner
Executive Director
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

NEWEST BOARD MEMBER ERIC DEKLE, PT

Eric Dekle, Physical Therapist, was appointed to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy in October 2009 for a five-year term which will expire in October 2014. He lives in Mobile AL and represents Congressional District 1 in the State. Eric has been licensed since 1994 and is employed with Mid South Home Health. He has already attended three board meetings and the Board Member Training with the Examiners of Public Accounts for the State in his brief tenure as a Board Member. We are happy to have him on the Board

2009 RENEWALS

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy renewed 3,293 licenses for the 2009 renewal period. 3,204 were renewed online; 89 were renewed by paper. That's a magnificent 97.3% online. The process is quick, easy, and can be done in your own home, at the library, the office, or wherever there is access to a computer. All you need is your license number, a credit card, your social security number, your name and address, and your continuing education certificates to complete the process. The renewal window is from August 1 each year through September 30. **IF YOU HAVEN'T TREATED PATIENTS**, you have until November 1 to renew without having to pay a late fee of \$50.00. If you fail to renew by midnight on September 30 and see patients prior to renewing, you will be found guilty of treating patients without a license and have to pay a fine of \$500.00 or more, in addition to your renewal fees. The moral of this story is: renew during the 2-month renewal period and **DO NOT TREAT PATIENTS** after the expiration date **UNTIL** you renew that license. We'd like to move to 100% online renewal in 2010; YOU can make that happen!



CE APPROVAL DEADLINE

Under the State of Alabama Administrative Code 700-x-2.09 5 . (c) 1. Any individual or organization seeking approval of a course must apply to the board in advance. The Board must receive a completed application between the dates October 1 through July 31. There will be NO course approvals for August 1 through September 30. There will be no exceptions!!!

Richard Vincent Molyneux, Secretary
Alabama Board of Physical Therapy



QUESTION: A PTA with a home health agency normally has a supervisory visit every 30 days. Due to being short handed with only one PT, the PT evaluates every 60 days. Is this OK?

RESPONSE: Direction means the action of the PT in delegating duties to a PTA, maintaining close communication with the PTA, and overseeing the PTA's activities on a frequent, regularly scheduled basis. (Roles & Responsibilities of Licensees 700-X-3-.03(2)(a) The Administrative Code.) The Board goes no further in defining "a frequent regularly scheduled basis". Therefore, you need to check the third party payer guidelines to see if there are specific time frames mentioned.

QUESTION: Has the board declared a position on a therapist who has graduated from an accredited program with a doctorate in physical therapy using the term “doctor” in a clinical setting? For example: “I am Dr. Jane Doe. I will be your physical therapist.”

RESPONSE: According to The Administrative Code, Chapter 700-X-2-.02(2)(k), using the word “doctor” in offering to perform professional services without also indicating the discipline in which the licensee holds a doctorate. A PT can introduce himself or herself as Dr. Jane or Jack Doe, physical therapist. They can also sign their name as Dr. NAME, followed by Physical Therapist.



2009 NON-RENEWED PHYSICAL THERAPIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
PETER ALFANO	3080 BLACKBIRD CIRCLE, HOOVER AL
WILLIAM L ANTHONY	P O BOX 597, WEDOWEE AL
SHANELLE N BALFOUR	32204 HARBOR VISTA CIR ST, ST AUGUSTINE FL
PATRICIA LAMAS BEERS	1932 CHANCELLOR RIDGE RD, PRATTVILLE AL
RAYMOND E BRADLEY III	1708 LAWTON DR, SULPHUR LA
MEGAN JEAN CAMPBELL	2548 BENT TREE DR, DECALA GA
CASEY CARLTON CARTER	12202 LEGENDS DR., MONTGOMERY AL
REBEKAH LYNN COCHRAN	101 ST JAMES PLACE, SHELBYVILLE TN
CATHERINE L COCKE	165 WHITNEY LANE, MANCHESTER TN
KIMBERLY KAY CORNELL	27668 FORT TOULOUSE CT, DAPHNE AL
CHRISTOPHER S DAHL	21 EMERSON LANE, LEOMINSTER MA
SUCHITRA DASARI	1028 HASTINGS CIR, BIRMINGHAM AL
JULIE M DEMAREST	4320 WINDING WAY, MOBILE AL
JILL A DERUMS	1198 MOUNTAIN RIDGE DR, WAVERLY HALL GA
SONJA K ENFINGER	12712 SOUTH MEMORIAL PKWY, HUNTSVILLE AL
SARA ANNE FAUCETT	1701 SHADES CLIFF RD, JASPER AL
DANNY T FRITTS	12011 RED BUD LANE, COLLINSVILLE MS
LESLIE R FROST	518 LEGEND LANE, MCHENRY IL
RITA R GAINES	8771 PINE MOUNTAIN RD, PINSON AL
ERIN W GARMANY	98 PALEO PLACE, INDIAN SPRINGS AL
LEANDRA ROSE GEBHARDT	15 AMES LANE, FORT RUCKER AL
CYNTHIA L GEHRKE	404 KELLY ST, SUN PRAIRIE WI
HOLLY M GIBSON	216 LIVE OAK DR, KINGSPORT TN
JEFFREY BERTON GIDDENS	115 NELSON BLVD, ROME GA
SAMMY D GORDON	PO BOX 3385, TUPELO MS
JENNIFER WONG GRANGER	176 WATERFORD LAKE DR, CALERA AL
JEAN M GUY	1993 DEWAR DR # 133, ROCK SPRINGS WY
ELIZABETH ANN HALL	5171 MASON RD, MEMPHIS TN
GEORGE B HAMIL JR	122 BRANDYWINE TRL, CARROLLTON GA
REBECCA B HANEY	PO BOX 145, ELBA AL
MISTY HARLOW	102 BOBBY COURT, TAYLOR AL
COLLEEN W HELTON	1054 MCNEIL AVE, MOBILE AL
CINDY W HERRING	3705 TURKEY RUN, JASPER AL
LISA TASSIE HOLDER	7403 CAPITANO COVE, RIVERVIEW FL
EMILY MARIE VICKERS HOLT	476 WOODMERE CREEK LANE, BIRMINGHAM AL
I. KAREN HOWARD	PO BOX 9798, PANAMA CITY BCH FL

2009 NON-RENEWED PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Name	Address
COURTNEY HUDSON	2421 BONNIE BRAE RD, DURHAM NC
LANCE W JONES	PO BOX 688, HARTSVILLE SC
ALLISON KEMPER	659 KALYPSO CIRCLE, AUBURN AL
TRACIE LYNN KRAMER	118 S. LOUISIANA ST, KENNEWICK WA
AMANDA E LANCASTER	4991 AL HWY 147 N, AUBURN AL
TINA M LOGAN	119 MTN VIEW CT, MILLBROOK AL
JONATHAN PATRICK LYONS	2801 RIVERVIEW RD APT #3122, BIRMINGHAM AL
BRANDY S LYONS	2801 RIVERVIEW RD APT #3122, BIRMINGHAM AL
JANE ANNE MADDEN	3929 GAINE DR, CLARKSVILLE TN
MARK BRANDON MCBRIDE	PO BOX 37, JACKSON AL
KELLY LYNN MCLAUGHLIN	8609 HARVEST RIDGE DR, MONTGOMERY AL
REGINA MCPHEARSON	720 NORTH HILLS ST, MERIDIAN MS
REGINA MERRITT	P O BOX 20517, PANAMA CITY BEACH FL
ANNE D MITCHELL	458 TANGLEWOOD TRAIL, COLUMBUS MS
GREGORY C NICHOLS	608 CASTLEBROOK DR, PRATTVILLE AL
EMILY LAUREN NUNNALLY	3 RED MAPLE TRAIL, PETAL MS
LAURIE M OCCHIPINTI	1114 WEYBRIDGE CIRCLE, PELHAM AL
CYNTHIA A ODEN	4210 HORSESHOE BEND, DECATUR AL
BRYAN J OWEN	21 MOUNTAIN VIEW CT, CEDARTWON GA
AMY RUSSELL PASSMORE	181 SLOAN ST, PONTOTOC MS
AMI PANKAJ PATEL	8994 KYLE DURAN DR, OLIVE BRANCH MS
RHONDA MICHELLE PIERCE	4155 VEGA DR, MOBILE AL
ALEXIA POTTS	117 SUNNYFIELD DR., MADISON AL
ELIZABETH CAROL PURRINGTON	105 HONEYSUCKLE DR, ROCK SPRING GA
SIOBHAN M RAVEN	3340 SANCTUARY POINT, FORT MYERS FL
DAVID J REICHENBERGER	PO BOX 372, PLAIN WI
CAROLYN L SHERER	1445 RIDGE RD, BIRMINGHAM AL
TAMARA L SHOULTS	118 CROWNRIDGE DR, MADISON AL
STEPHEN L SIMS	106 NORTH LAKE LANE, MADISON AL
DANIEL JOHN SIMS	PO BOX 66977, ST PETE BEACH FL
NAVJIT SINGH	27567 ROLLING PINE CT, LAWTON MI
PAULA S TUTTLE	120 WINDRIDGE WAY, HUNTSVILLE AL
RACHELE ULYSSE	2628 NORTH EAST EXPWAY APT N 8, ATLANTA GA
TRACY WALLACE-TEAGUE	268 NARROWS REACH, BIRMINGHAM AL
MARIA C WEST	430 TURNBERRY RD, CANTONMENT FL

2009 NON-RENEWED PHYSICAL THERAPIST

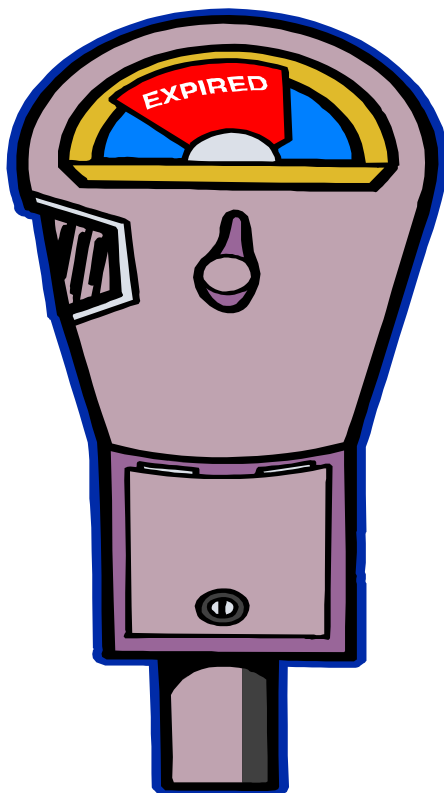
Name	Address
CHARLES F WHITE	2511 EWELL AVE, TUPELO MS
JOSEPH BRENNON WILLIAMS	12124 HAND ROAD, COLLINSVILLE MS
HEIDI LYN WINSTEAD	511 RIVER FORD RD, MARYVILLE TN
TAMMY M WRIGHT	4893 GRIZZLY CT, DOUGLASVILLE GA
GLORIA J YOUNG	PO BOX 77148, JACKSONVILLE FL

2009 NON-RENEWED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

Name	Address
RANDIE M BROWN	307 CROWNE RESERVE DR, BIRMINGHAM AL
SAMME V BROWN	109 WEMBLEY CT, DOTHAN AL
DAVID ADAM BYRUM	700 HUDSON AVE. APT. 1, ONEONTA AL
CHADWICK DEWAYNE CHAMPION	1049 ORCHARD MILL ROAD, COTTONDALE AL
SHELLY L CLAYBURN	18 SHERIDAN ST, FORT RUCKER AL
MONICA L CLIPPERTON	754 COUNTY LINE RD., BOAZ AL
TIMOTHY KITT COAN	550 COLLEGE STREET, AUBURN AL
DOLORES C CRAWFORD	2850 WYNTERHALL RD APT 706, HUNTSVILLE AL
DESTINI D DAILEY	143 JAMESTOWN WAY, HURRICANE WV
DONALD RAY FORD	165 WAGON WHEEL WAY, SALISBURY NC
PAMELA H FRIES	14678 MCCULLEY MILL ROAD, ATHENS AL
JEFF E HAGER	5132 SELKIRK DRIVE, BIRMINGHAM AL
COREY MICHAEL HENDERSON	1026 CEDAR LANE, SOUTHSIDE AL
SCOTT W HOBBS	PO BOX 642, HEBER CITY UT
STEPHANIE JOAN HOERLER	528 WINTER TERRACE, WINTER HAVEN FL
BRITTANY STEELE JOHNSON	1043 NORTH GATE CIRCLE, BAINBRIDGE GA
AMANDA MARIE KEMP	1816 HIGH VALLEY RD, PRATTVILLE AL
JANA RAE KEUL	1526 PLEASANT VIEW RD, FALKVILLE AL
KRIS H KNOP	501 10TH STREET SE, CULLMAN AL
SUMMER D LESLEY	PO BOX 784, BELMONT MS
ALICIA N MCKENZIE	8493 CHARLEY BOOTHE RD, FAIRHOPE AL
DEBORAH K MCLEMORE	219 W SUNSET AVE, PENSACOLA FL
KESHA NICOLE PARISH	6847 GRADY BELL RD, DONALDSONVILLE GA

2009 NON-RENEWED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

Name	Address
MANDY A PHARR	1334 STEELE ST, HAMILTON AL
DONNA L PIFER	1168 CTY RD 24, FLORENCE AL
MICHAEL SHANE ROBERTS	206 VARNER DR SW, MCDONALD TN
MELINDA J SANDERS	13460 SHILOH RD, RALPH AL
REGINA LYNN SEARCY	1983 ATKIN HILL RD, WETUMPKA AL
ELIZABETH B SHAFFER	3307 CHACE LAKE FAIRWAY, HOOVER AL
CHRISTI MORGAN SILVA	304 W NASSAU AVE, MUSCLE SHOALS AL
GLADYS H SIMS	441 OAKMONT ST, BRIGHTON AL
JADE CURRY SMITH	111 MCKINLEY DR, BONIFAY FL
SPENCER RAY SMITH JR	157 MCINTOSH LANE NE, CLEVELAND TN
SHANNON MARIE WALLACE	125 LAKE LANE, HEADLAND AL
KIMBERLY S WATSON	27926 RILEY WOOD DR, DAPHNE AL
SHANA MEGHAN WEBB	553 HWY 90, CHIPLEY FL
JAMES C WHITEFIELD	12 BRITTANY LANE, ROME GA
CATHRINE M YAKE	3950 HEDGE BROOKE DR, ACWORTH GA



ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

The Board has a three-tier system of discipline.

The lowest level of sanction involves the placing of a *letter of admonition* in a licensee's permanent file.

The intermediate level of sanction involves the licensee entering into a *guilty plea agreement* with the Board, either prior to or following a formal or informal hearing. A licensee who pleads guilty may be required to pay a fine, or be subjected to a period of license suspension, or both.

The highest level of sanction involves a finding of guilt after a *formal administrative hearing*. This level of sanction includes a fine and/or license suspension, and may include license revocation.

Disciplinary actions are matters of public record.

In addition to being included in a licensee's permanent file, disciplinary actions are also published in the Board's semi-annual newsletter and to the Healthcare Integrity Protection Data Bank. (HIPDB).

Licensees who either plead guilty, or who are found guilty after either an informal or formal hearing, have their names and the nature of their discipline published in the Board's newsletter and filed with HIPDB.

With a letter of admonition, only the nature of the disciplinary action is published.

In keeping with this policy, the following is a list of the Board's disciplinary actions since the last newsletter:

Allegation: Practicing physical therapy without a current license, caused by failure to timely renew license.

Disposition: Licensee pleaded guilty and paid \$500 fine.

<u>Case #</u>	<u>Name</u>
10-01-02	Dawn F. Thomas, PT
10-01-03	Steve Roger Carroll, PTA
10-01-04	Mark F. Wilson, PT
10-01-05	Alan Drew Compton, PT
10-01-06	Churan N. Bell-Cross, PT
10-01-07	Kaye S. Ayers, PT
10-01-08	Kristye H. Chastang, PT
10-01-09	Ryan Mattson Baker, PT
10-01-10	Kareaion M. Eaton, PT
10-01-12	Kristjan I. Fridriksson, PT

Allegation: Practicing physical therapy without current license prior to renewing and falsifying information.

Disposition: Licensee pleaded guilty and paid \$1,000 fine.

10-01-01	Angela W. Harper, PTA
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